

these smaller species of the genus (s. *Balanobius* Jekel) whose larvae develop in leaf-galls as opposed to fruits.

In contrast, the larger species of *Curculio* are virtually monophagous; where a secondary host is alleged to exist it is probably based on adult straying, as when oak and hazel, for instance, grow close together. It is noteworthy that a middle-sized oak-feeding species, *villosus* F., develops in the familiar 'oak-apple' galls, and not in acorns like *venosus* and *glandium* — a fact not, I think, noticed in British works. Biologically, therefore, it belongs with the *Balanobius* group, whilst in other respects a typical *Curculio* s. str. (= *Balaninus*). I should perhaps mention in passing that the very distinctive *C. (Balanobius) crux* F., which lives on *Salix*, is common on much of the Continent and would be expected to occur in Britain.

I cannot agree with Fowler's estimate (*l.c.sup.* 385) that *C. glandium* (= *turbatus* Gyll.) is 'not common'; I have always found it at least as commonly as *C. venosus*, if not more so. The two often occur together on the same oaks, and I have had *glandium* on the tray in plenty off one tree at Windsor, accompanied by a few *venosus*. The former is notable also for its great variation in size, some specimens being but little larger than *betulae* which they rather resemble. On the other hand *nucum* L. and *venosus*, from what I have seen, vary hardly at all in that regard. All three of these larger species are, normally, easy to discriminate in the field, each having its own characteristic facies not readily described.

I have taken all eight British species of *Curculio* at Darenth Wood, W. Kent, which classic locality is now sorely in need of protection. — A. A. ALLEN.

EULYPE HASTATA L.: ARGENT AND SABLE FEEDING AT BLUEBELLS (ENDYMION NONSCRIPTUS). — R. South in his *Moths of the British Isles*, Vol. II states of this moth — "It flies in the afternoon sunshine around and over birch trees, and occasionally alights on the leaves", and my experience of the insect in Southern England is in accord with this description. However, on May 25th, 1952, at Broadwater Forest, Sussex, later to be despoiled by the Forestry Commission, I saw about a dozen specimens most of which were feeding at bluebells far past their prime. Aphides were not in evidence on the flowers, and I suspect the moths were imbibing some product caused by bacterial activity rather than upon nectar. I have not observed *E. hastata* feeding at flowers on other occasions, nor have I seen any reference to such behaviour. — B. K. WEST, 36 Briar Road, Bexley, Kent.

AN EARLY RED ADMIRAL. — In warm sunshine this morning, my wife and I watched a *Vanessa atalanta* L. sunning itself by the roadside in Holmesley Enclosure in the New Forest. In view of the recent very cold spell it seems likely that this was one that managed to hibernate. In spite of there being a light SW wind, the insect had none of the urgency of an immigrant about it. — E. H. WILD, 7, Abbots Close, Highcliffe, Christchurch, Dorset, 31.i.1982.

